



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF **ENERGY**

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Small Business Owners Learn More On Accessing Recovery Act Contract Opportunities

SRS Recovery Act Project Concentrates on Awarding Locally

ALLENDALE, S.C. (Sept. 2) – About 60 small business owners gathered on August 20 in Allendale, eager to learn more on how they can access contract opportunities tied to the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act funding at Savannah River Site (SRS).

The important first step is to establish a Central Contractor Registration (CCR) certification.

“We would like for you to tell us what your company can offer SRS as the first step in the process,” said Sharon Campbell, Small Business Program Manager at Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC (SRNS). Campbell attended the Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance’s seminar held at the Brandt Building. “I came to help you and your business understand the process for being part of the economic recovery in our region. SRS is interested in your success.”

The CCR is an online government-maintained database (www.ccr.gov) of companies wanting to do business with the federal government. Registration is crucial to the small business because it provides a forum for agencies and larger companies to search the database and view business profiles and capabilities of small businesses.

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Eligibility for conducting business with SRS involves two steps:

- Registering with the CCR
- Submitting a capabilities statement to SRNS at supplierdevelopment@srs.gov for the Potential Supplier Database

In addition, Campbell recommended that small businesses schedule a meeting with her. The best way to make an appointment with Campbell is via e-mail at supplierdevelopment@srs.gov. Potential subcontractors should also be cognizant that “safety and security are at the forefront,” she said. “We are well known for our safety focus.”

Campbell told the audience from Allendale, Barnwell, Bamberg and Hampton counties – areas hit hard by high unemployment rates and represented by the economic development alliance – that SRS has awarded approximately \$131 million in contracts to support the \$1.6 billion Recovery Act at SRS. Of the total, \$96 million has gone to small businesses, with \$36.4 million going to businesses in Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell and Edgefield counties in South Carolina and to Columbia and Richmond counties in Georgia.

“We are working very hard to include small businesses, disadvantaged businesses, and local businesses,” Campbell said. “We have an emphasis on awarding contracts to businesses in the local area.”

She said upcoming opportunities for Recovery Act Project work include excavation/consolidation and cover systems; decontamination and decommissioning; demolition and construction; soil remediation; and reactor disassembly, stack removal and grouting.

Campbell was joined by small business managers from other SRS contractors and David Hepner, Manager of Acquisition Operations for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Savannah River Operations. Hepner outlined opportunities in fiscal year 2010 for direct DOE contracts at SRS totaling \$3.5 million.

These contracts are not part of the Recovery Act. Contracting opportunities exist for site-wide furniture moving; commodities including wood chips and laundry; site-wide portable equipment rental; site-wide cellular service; and site-wide office copiers.

He advised the group to participate in the Small Business Administration’s 8(a) Business Development Program, which assists eligible socially and economically disadvantaged individuals develop and grow their small businesses.

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Additional information on these DOE contracts is available at www.srs.gov and by clicking on “DOE-SR” on the left side of the web page and then on “Business Opportunities” on the page that appears. For more information, please contact Parodio Maith, (803) 952-9487 or Parodio.Maith@srs.gov.

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions and Savannah River Remediation will hold a small business forum in September in Aiken, during which pre-registered attendees may meet with procurement officials specializing in different services. In addition, there will be a panel discussion, “How to be a Part of the Recovery,” and breakout sessions repeated every 30 minutes to address requirements for bidding on selected projects and getting personnel on site to work on Recovery Act projects.

Attendees may also register to set up a booth, showcasing their products and services to other small businesses and larger contractors.

To register for the forum, please complete the supplier questionnaire on the Recovery Act web site at www.srs.gov/recovery. The date of the forum will be announced on the web site and in the local media.

For additional information on the Department of Energy’s Office of Environmental Management and the Savannah River Site, can be found at <http://www.em.doe.gov> or <http://www.srs.gov>. For more information about the SRS Recovery Act Project, please visit www.srs.gov/recovery.

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Photo caption: Sharon Campbell reviews a list of Recovery Act procurements with Dennis Hutto of The Book Worm, LLC, a Barnwell office and school supply store.